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A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES ASSOCIATED WITH ORCHIDS FROM MEXICO

(Lepidoptera: Chrysaugidae)

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For several years the larvae of a chrysaugid species have been intercepted rather frequently in shipments of orchids from Mexico. The adults reared and submitted for identification by inspectors of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantines at the ports of Brownsville and Laredo, Texas, represent a new species and a new genus.

POTOSA, new genus

Antenna simple or ciliate. Labial palpus upturned, not reaching vertex, moderately scaled below. Frons evenly rounded. MALE: Forewing (fig. 2) with costa slightly undulate; 11 veins (7 united with 8), vein 2 approximate to 3, 4 and 5 stalked, 6 from upper angle of cell. Hind wing (fig. 2) with vein 3 from slightly before angle of cell, 4 and 5 stalked; discoidals strongly curved inward; 7 stalked with 6 from cell then diverging and anastomosing with 8 a short distance. FEMALE: Forewing (fig 1) with costa nearly straight; 11 veins (7 present, stalked with 8 and 9, 11 obsolescent); 4 and 5 stalked. Hind wing (fig. 1) essentially like that of male.

Type of genus. — *Potosa rufofascialis*, new species.

Remarks. — Related to but separated from *Dasycnemia* Ragonot[1] by veins 7 and 8 of the forewing (males of *Dasycnemia* with vein 7 separate from 8 and those of *Potosa* with 7 and 8 united). No females of *Dasycnemia* available for comparison.

Potosa rufofascialis, new species

MALE: (pl. 1; figs. 2, 4, 4a). — Antenna ciliate; cilia short, length of cilia approximately equal width of antenna near base. Third segment of labial palpus short, not more than one-half as

[1]Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London, p. 660, fig. 25, 1897.— Hampson, G. F.

long as second. Forewing: (above) reddish brown with a tinge of purple; transverse anterior and posterior lines brownish, rather indistinct, concave outwardly. Transverse anterior line from costa, distant the base about one-fourth length of wing; transverse posterior line from costa, distant the base about two-thirds length of wing. Basal area darker than median area.; (below) paler than upper surface, with the light brown more intense near costa, and the transverse and posterior lines more distinct. Hind wing: (above) reddish brown, slightly paler than forewing; post medial line indistinct; (below) post medial line distinct, somewhat serrate.

Mid tibia rather heavily scaled; hind tibia less so, but tarsi with tuftlike scales.

Genitalia (fig. 4) with harpe simple; anellus broad, deeply incised; gnathos long, slender, distal end a short, sharp, upturned hook; uncus short, broad; aedeagus (fig. 4a) without cornuti.

Alar expanse. — 18 mm.

FEMALE (pl. 1; figs. 3, 5). — Antenna simple. Third segment of labial palpus short, length not more than one-half that of second. Mid and hind tibia similar to those of male, but with scaling of hind tarsi fringe-like instead of tufted. Maculation similar to male.

Gentilalia (pl. 1; fig. 3) with a narrow sclerotized band along lower margin of genital opening; a small patch of spines slightly below ductus seminalis; bursa copulatrix weakly scobinate.

Alar expanse. — 20 to 22 mm.

Type and paratypes. — In U. S. National Museum, No. 61425.

Type locality. — Maiz, San Luis Potosi, Mexico.

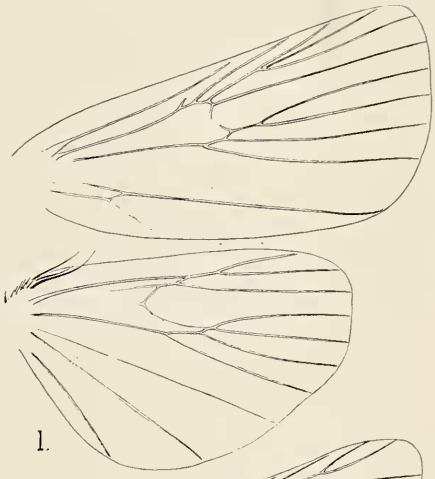
Food plant. — Orchids (plant roots).

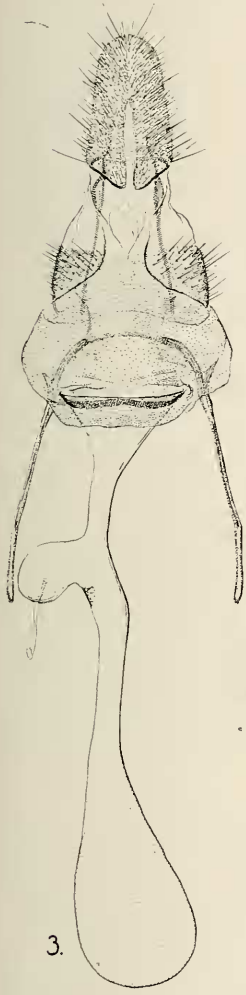
Material. — MEXICO: Maiz, San Luis Potosi (male type and 4 female paratypes); Antiguo Morales, San Luis Potosi (2 male and 2 female paratypes).

EXPLANATION OF PLATE 1

Fig. 1. Female fore and hind wing.
Fig. 2. Male fore and hind wing.
Fig. 3. Female genitalia, ventral view.
Fig. 4. Male genitalia with aedeagus removed, ventral view.
Fig. 5. Female adult.

Drawings by Arthur D. Cushman, scientific illustrator of U. S. Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.





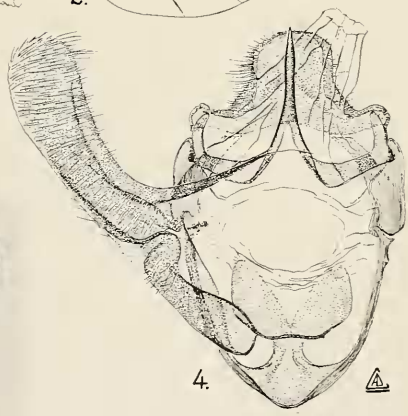


Plate 1